

College-Level French Language

Description of the Examination

The College-Level French Language Examination is designed to measure knowledge and ability equivalent to that of students who have completed two to four semesters of college French language study. The exam focuses on skills typically achieved from the end of the first year through the second year of college study; material taught during both years is incorporated into a single exam.

The exam is 90 minutes long and is administered in two separately timed sections:

- a 30-minute Listening Section of approximately 50 questions, presented on a tape;
- a 60-minute Reading Section of approximately 80 questions, presented in a test book.

The two sections are weighted so that they contribute equally to the total score. Subscores are reported for the two sections; however, they are computed independently. An individual's total score, therefore, is not necessarily the average of the two subscores.

Most colleges that award credit for the College-Level French Language Examination award either two or four semesters of credit, depending on the student's scores on the exam. The subscores are not intended to be used to award credit separately for Listening and Reading, but colleges may require that both scores be above a certain level to ensure that credit is not awarded to a student who is deficient in either of these skills.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Candidates must demonstrate their ability to comprehend written and spoken French by answering various types of questions. The following components of reading and listening skills are tested in the exam.

Approximate Percent of Examination

40%	Section I: Listening
15%	Part A: Rejoinders (listening comprehension through short oral exchanges)
25%	Part B: Short and long dialogues/narratives (listening comprehension through longer spoken selections)
60%	Section II: Reading
10%	Part A: Discrete sentences (vocabulary and structure)
20%	Part B: Short cloze passages (vocabulary and structure)
30%	Part C: Reading passages and authentic stimulus materials (reading comprehension)

Study Resources

Familiarize yourself thoroughly with the contents of at least one introductory French textbook, which you can find in most college bookstores. In addition to studying basic vocabulary, you should understand and be able to apply the grammatical principles that make up the language. To improve your reading comprehension, read passages from textbooks, short magazine or newspaper articles, or other printed material of your choice. To improve your listening comprehension, seek opportunities to hear the language spoken by native speakers and to converse with native speakers. French records and tapes are available in many libraries. Take advantage of opportunities to join organizations with French-speaking members, to attend French movies, or to hear French-language radio broadcasts. The Internet is another resource you should explore.